

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 5, 7, 8, 11-13 and 15 have been amended, and claims 3-4, 6, 14, 16, and 18 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5, 7-9, 11-13, and 15 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 5, 7-9, 11-13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirst, U.S. Patent No. 5,627,722. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has relied upon FIGS. 9-10 and 13, and col. 5, line 55, through col. 6, line 36, of Hirst as support for the previously claimed "self-bias" and the claimed voltage dividing between a selected development roller and the remaining selected development rollers.

However, this portion of Hirst merely provides a discussion on switching between development rollers for selectively providing the high developing voltage to a single one of the development rollers. This portion of Hirst does not disclose or suggest using the high developing voltage provided to the select development roller for also stabilizing the voltages of the remaining development rollers.

Conversely, Hirst is merely directed toward a printer system that provides high developing voltage to a select developer, e.g., potentially similar to the below mentioned Suzuki and similar systems set forth in the background of the present application.

Rather than the claimed voltage dividing feature, Hirst particularly indicates that the non-selected developers are "floating", or that a DC bias may be connected to those non-selected developers to stabilize their bias voltages. See Hirst in col. 2, lines 57-63.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Hirst fails to disclose or suggest the claimed voltage dividing of the high developing voltage as provided to a select development roller, and using that voltage divided high developing voltage for biasing non-selected development rollers, as claimed

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,376,998. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar to above, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest the claimed voltage dividing of the high developing voltage as provided to a select development roller, and using that voltage divided high developing voltage for biasing non-selected development rollers, as claimed.

The Office Action has indicated that FIGS. 5 and 6 of Suzuki illustrate the previously claimed "self-bias" and the claimed voltage dividing between a selected development roller and the remaining selected development rollers.

However, as detailed in Suzuki regarding FIGS. 5 and 6, the high developing voltage provided to a selected development roller is not thereafter used for biasing the remaining non-selected development rollers.

Rather, in Suzuki, during application of the high development voltage to the selected development roller, the other development rollers either "float" or a "pause bias power source" is selectively applied to the non-selected development rollers.

As stated in Suzuki, in col. 5, lines 57-64: "[a]ccording to the third embodiment, a predetermined DC high voltage can be applied to the sleeve of the development unit which is in a pause state as shown in FIG. 5. In FIG. 5, a pause bias power source 7 generates a predetermined DC high voltage so that the toner doesn't move from the pause development unit to the photo sensitive drum 100."

Thus, though FIG. 5 illustrates a number of different resistors, the detailed description of Suzuki clarifies that the "pause bias" voltage is only provided to those development rollers that have not been selected for receiving the high development voltage.

Thus, in view of the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 11-13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Suzuki, in view of Sato, U.S. Patent No. 5,099,278. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above, it is further submitted that at least Suzuki and Sato fail to disclose or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 11-13. In addition, for at least the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims depending from claims 11-13 are equally allowable.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

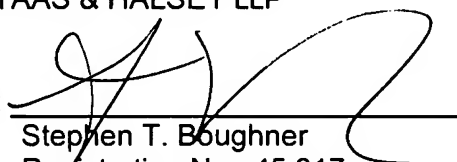
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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